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U. S. Department of Agriculture

SPRING OF 1910

Descriptive Circular

OF

STRAWBERRIES

OFFERED AT THE

BLUE GRASS NURSERIES

BY

H. F. Hillenmeyer & Son

Lexington, Ky.



WE EMPLOY NO AGENTS

TELEPHONES 279

Strawberry Catalogue

OF THE

Blue Grass Nurseries

FOR THE

Spring of 1910

The summer of 1908 was the worst ever to raise a crop of strawberry plants, but never in an experience dating to 1868 was there a season better than the last. From the setting of the plants to this February 1st everything has favored. It was never very hot and the rains were continuous. The plants grew like Jonah's gourd, as did the weeds. We have never raised a finer crop nor one that cost us so much in the making, for every weed was suppressed. We hope to fill every order received with just the nicest of plants, but we have never had so many orders on file so early, and we ask our patrons to file their lists in good season, for the demand is likely to be immense, it being impossible to get plants from almost any source last spring.

THE SOIL

Of almost any Kentucky farm will yield good berries. It should be dry, rich, deeply worked, and not sod land of any kind. In sod there is sure to be a great crop of grub worms, ready to eat up the plants in July or August when the grass roots are rotted out, and just when all work needed to make a grand crop of berries has been done.

THE VARIETIES

Ripen over four or five weeks; cool and moist weather making a longer season. All kinds are good somewhere, but very few kinds everywhere.

It has been our purpose always to try all the new claimants and get rid of the chaff, holding to good healthy growers that would make nice plants for us and good crops of fine attractive berries for our friends. Around this idea we have built up perhaps the largest plant trade in the Ohio valley.

THE PLANTS

Should be from a new bed, for old ones are hardly worth planting. Then they should be set on ground perfectly prepared and level as a floor. The rows should be four feet apart and the plants twelve or fifteen inches. The plants will come in bunches of twenty-five and the roots should be cut to a length of four inches. Before planting dip in water, or, if late in the season, in a puddle thick as whitewash. Be sure to get the crown of the plant just even with the surface, neither above nor below, and set just as cabbage. Get the earth firm around the root. We never use water, but every plant must be so firm in the earth that it cannot be pulled up by a leaf stem.

THE TIME TO PLANT

Is March or April, or if you have your own plants they may be moved in masses into checks 4x4 feet, leaving as much earth in each as may be. This is best done just after the crop is gathered. It is a certain waste of time, plants and effort to set in the summer or fall, and we have no desire to furnish plants at such times, except the order states that the risk is assumed.

THE CULTIVATION

Should be frequent, shallow and right up to the plant. This leaves only a very narrow strip to be kept clean by hand, and of course to save hand work the rows must be straight and exactly of even distance. The plants will soon begin to make runners, which should be cut off with the hoe until July. The weed season is then pretty well over, and the runners may occupy half the ground. The cultivation should keep the middles open until October. An alley is needed between the rows for convenience in gathering, and a planting that covers the ground like a pasture invites great loss, either in the gathering or the failure of the crop in a dry season, because the plants are too thick. When the ground is solidly frozen, the plants should be covered with straw to keep the fruit clean, to retain the moisture and to prolong the season. If applied just right the plants will push through, and it need not be removed.

OLD BEDS

Should be mowed with sythe or machine when the crop is gathered, and when the tops are dry let all be burned, to get rid of seeds, insects, rust spores and all the litter. Then manure, and if the block is large, run a disc harrow both ways, finishing with a tooth or smoothing harrow. If the planting is small plow the original rows to a width of six inches and harrow thoroughly. This looks like destruction, but it is the best thing to do, and do it with confidence. An old bed worked over in this way may give a second and often a third crop of real nice berries, firmer and higher in color than the first. In fact a few kinds, notably Gandy and Tennessee, may give better results from an old than a new planting.

BARREN BEDS

Are a great bugaboo to many people. Some strawberries will bear anywhere, others not. Some have perfect flowers, and these of course will bear every time. Then others have no pollen of their own and will only yield if this is supplied. Crescent, Haverland and Bubach are and have been most popular, and are all imperfect and ordinarily barren if planted alone. If planted near Tennessee or any perfect kind, these same barren things will redden the earth with their abundance. In fact the barren kinds as a class are healthier, hardier and more productive. The right thing to be done is to see that a small proportion of the perfects are planted near by, and one row of the one to three, four or five of the other is sufficient. No order is sent out that is not fully provided for a fruitful bed.

A CHAT WITH OUR PATRONS

About plants. They are true to name where they grow, and we are ready to replace all that are not so. The only errors that occur are in the counting and packing rooms and each is in charge of an expert. It is not to our interest to make mistakes, and in the handling of millions of plants errors have only been called to our attention two or three times and we sincerely regretted them. Our plant season opens the last of March ordinarily and lasts into May. We are perfectly organized and can handle great numbers of plants every day. The digging, counting and packing departments are in charge of competent heads. Every plant dug is sent out that day, and for over a month we deliver night loads for the late and early outgoing trains so that our patrons may get their plants in prime order. Rain stops plant digging, and while we can meet every promise in good weather, we have no stocks on hand to provide for orders promised when it is impossible

to dig. When plants arrive, unpack at once. If not ready to set, cover with moist sacking but do not wet. Managed this way they will not injure for ten days. Unpack from the top of the box and keep kinds separate. If the same box is an order for two or three patrons, give each part of every kind. For a small family order 500 plants, and for a larger one, 1,000. Three kinds are sufficient variety for the former and four for the latter. All plants paid for before sent are packed free; all others are charged cost for boxing. Orders of one dollar and less will have especial liberal consideration if paid in advance. You may remit by check, draft, express or post office order or registry, but we do not cash your enclosure until we have sent the goods. We receive our mail several times every day and all wires come direct to our office.

H. F. HILLENMEYER & SON, Lexington, Ky.

OUR KINDS

Are not many, but all have done well with us; better some years than others, but generally satisfactory to our patrons. We have weeded out everything that in one way or another has not pleased, and we counsel our friends to make their selections in such kinds as have succeeded best with them or in their locality. Nurseries are required by State law to be inspected, and we have a perfect certificate. No complaint will be considered except on receipt of plants.

PRICE LIST

	PRICE	PACKING
100.....	\$.50	—
300.....	1.15	.10
500.....	1.60	.10
1,000.....	3.00	.20
5,000.....	13.00	.50
10,000.....	25.00	.75

AUBURN, Imperfect—But some years pretty self-fertile. A great, dark heart-shaped berry that in mid season, in quality and beauty, is hard to beat.

BUBACH, Imperfect—If on good land, in a fair season, no kind will turn off such a wealth of great, rather soft berries of moderate quality and superb size and appearance.

DOWNING, Imperfect—A great, vigorous, healthy plant that at mid-season yields large uniform berries of fine quality.

GANDY, Perfect—The latest, very large, showy and firm. An unrivalled market kind, but not the best to fertilize imperfects. Bears well on old beds.

GIBSON, Perfect—A grand plant, healthy and productive of superb berries at mid-season.

GREENVILLE, Imperfect—Very much like Bubach, but more vigorous and prolific of plants. The fruit is quite as large as that of Bubach and rather firmer and of better quality.

HAVERLAND, Imperfect—A long, light red, early berry, very large at first; holding on to the end, and while only of moderate quality, so vigorous, hardy, healthy and productive that it is first choice of nearly all planters.

JOHNSON'S EARLY, Perfect—Not so early as Michel or Excelsior but so much better than either that it holds first place. It is large, good and pretty, and very early besides.

MARIE, Imperfect—A seedling of Crescent, early, dark red, firm, good and most abundant bearer. If plants are not too thick set, few kinds are superior. Very vigorous.

MINUTE MAN, Imperfect—Few kinds surpass this in health, vigor, productiveness and ability to resist adverse conditions, and yet turn off a great crop of nice berries.

PARSON'S BEAUTY, Perfect—An early, showy, good and large berry. Plant a model of health and vigor.

SEAFORD, Imperfect—A large, healthy, vigorous plant, uniformly productive of berries of fine size, color and quality.

STAR, Perfect—No plant is better than this, and on soil that suits, few kinds can turn off finer or better berries.

TENNESSEE, Perfect—A large, firm, dark, rather early berry of fine quality. The plant blooms early and until the first berries ripen. To use with imperfect kinds it is the very best. Keep the plants in check, as it is a rampant grower.

UNCLE JIM, Perfect—An early, large and very sweet berry. This is the first year we have had a reasonable stock to offer of this superior kind.

NATIVE WINE

Our extensive vineyards, maintained for propagation purposes, contain many varieties not suited for table use. The fruit of these is converted into wine, made without adulterants of any kind. We have long enjoyed a great demand for medicinal and communion purposes and will furnish at 75 cents per gallon, and cooperage or bottles added, 10 cents per gallon ordinarily.

TULIP POPLAR

This grand lumber tree of Kentucky is sadly neglected on its native heath. After the first year none will grow more rapidly for so long a period—not even the sycamore. It is peculiarly free of insect and fungous diseases. It is peerless in form and beauty of foliage. We are trying to introduce it on every lawn, and have perhaps the largest stock in the Ohio valley.

SECOND CROP POTATOES

Are superior to any for seed purposes. We have offered them for many years and are generally sold out before dug. We have a small stock on hand which we offer for the time being at \$1.00 per bushel—Thorburn, Cobbler, Bovee.

THERE IS MONEY IN GROWING STRAWBERRIES

Our plants are dug, counted and
packed as good plants should be

PRICES RIGHT

TRY THEM